

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 397

Honoring 2006 Olympic team member Joey Cheek and recognizing the need to work with international partners to help bring an end to the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and the suffering of children in Chad.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2006

Mr. MEEKS of New York (for himself, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. RANGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring 2006 Olympic team member Joey Cheek and recognizing the need to work with international partners to help bring an end to the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and the suffering of children in Chad.

Whereas United States 2006 Olympic team member Joey Cheek won the Olympic 500 meter speed-skating event with the fastest aggregate time of 69.76 seconds to earn the gold medal and a \$25,000 prize on February 20, 2006, at the Oval Lingotto in Torino, Italy;

Whereas Joey Cheek, at great sacrifice to his family and himself, has spent 10 years training for the Olympic competition;

Whereas, at the completion of the 2006 Olympic Games, Joey Cheek retired from competition and plans to attend college to pursue intellectual enrichment;

Whereas United States Olympic gold medalist Joey Cheek announced that he would donate the total sum of his prize of \$25,000 to an organization called “Right to Play”, whose mission statement reads “Creating a healthier and safer world for children through the power of sports and play”;

Whereas, in announcing his plan to donate his prize money, Joey Cheek declared, “In the Darfur region of Sudan, tens of thousands of people have been killed; my government called it genocide. So I will be donating money specifically to a program that helps refugees in Chad, where there are over 60,000 children who have been displaced.”;

Whereas Joey Cheek is not financially wealthy but has sacrificed using his prize money to pay for college in order to help refugee children in Chad;

Whereas Joey Cheek announced that he would ask Olympic sponsors to match his donation;

Whereas, on July 22, 2004, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate declared that atrocities taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan are genocide;

Whereas over 3,500,000 people have been affected by the fighting in the Darfur region of Sudan;

Whereas the government of Sudan sponsored a terrorist group called Janjaweed that has been brutally murdering

and raping women and girls while capturing them for the sex slave trade and human trafficking;

Whereas the terrorist group Janjaweed has also been brutally murdering men and boys and capturing boys for slavery and to become child soldiers;

Whereas, because the government of Sudan has denied humanitarian groups access to refugee camps, the humanitarian groups cannot provide assistance to displaced individuals;

Whereas the African Union has established a peacekeeping mission to monitor the situation in Darfur: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
4 tives (the Senate concurring) that—

5 (A) Joey Cheek is a great American who
6 espouses the principles of democracy and sup-
7 port for human rights;

8 (B) Joey Cheek represents the best that
9 the United States has to offer in its citizenry
10 through his accomplishments on the ice as an
11 athlete and through his principles and respect
12 for human life;

13 (2) the House of Representatives (the Senate
14 concurring)—

1 (A) recognizes the difficulties the displaced
2 and orphaned children of the Darfur region of
3 Sudan encounter and supports the actions of
4 Joey Cheek in bringing their suffering to the
5 attention of the international community;

6 (B) encourages all people in the world to
7 help bring an end to suffering and to work in
8 partnership with nongovernmental organizations
9 to bring about this goal; and

10 (C) recognizes the need to work with inter-
11 national partners to help bring an end to the
12 ongoing genocide in Darfur region of Sudan
13 and the suffering of children in Chad.

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